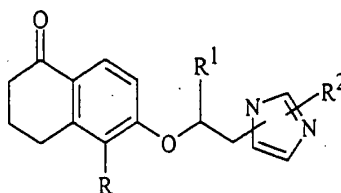


ABSTRACT

The present invention provides methods and compositions for inhibiting A $\beta$  synthesis and for treating Alzheimer's disease by administering a farnesyl transferase inhibitor of the formula:

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wherein R is hydrogen, alkyl, and substituted alkyl; R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, phenyl, or substituted phenyl; and R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or benzyl.